Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
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AMEMBASSY SEOUL
USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, CH, HK, VN
SUBJECT: PRC CADRE IN HONG KONG COMMENTS ON PRC-HONG KONG
RELATIONSHIP

REF: HONG KONG 12334

1. IN A LATE AUGUST SPEECH TO A LOCAL LEFTWING AUDIENCE NCNA DEPUTY DIRECTOR CHI FENG STATED THAT THE PRC'S ANTI-BRITISH POLICY DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, AND ITS EFFECTS ON HONG KONG, WAS A MISTAKE. HE ATTRIBUTED THE ANTI-BRITISH POLICY TO LIN PIAO, AND SAID IT WAS AN OUTGROWTH OF THE ANTI-AMERICAN POLICY OF THAT TIME. HE NOTED THAT SINCE THE SOVIET UNION IS NOW REGARDED AS THE MAJOR ENEMY, SUCH A POLICY MAKES NO SENSE. ALTHOUGH CONTRADICTIONS AS WELL AS "CONCURRENCES" EXIST BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE PRC, CHI FENG OBSERVED, THE CONTRADICTIONS CAN BE SOLVED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THROUGH CONSULTATION AND NEGOTIATION.

2. COMMENT: CHI'S BASIC THEME, THAT THE 1967 ANTI-BRITISH EVENTS IN PEKING AND HONG KONG WERE A MISTAKE, HAS BEEN USED BY PRC REPRESENTATIVES IN PRIVATE COMMENT FOR A LONG TIME. CHI'S FORMULATION, HOWEVER, SOUNDS LIKE ONE RECENTLY DEVISED IN PEKING AS ANOTHER STEP AMONG THE MANY RECENTLY TO STRENGTHEN CONFIDENCE HERE IN HONG KONG'S FUTURE. IT ALSO SERVES TO EXCULPATE LOCAL CADRE, CHI AMONG THEM, FOR THEIR ROLE IN THE 1967 DISTURBANCES. SHOESMITH

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